

and their work acknowledged.

In fact that was how the former East End Barons Community Centre began in the 1940's.

A \$10 donation was received from the Bronx Park Community Centre for the purchase of stamps so that memberships could be sent out. When the money was gone, Doris Mitchell went home, looked about the house, donated a bowl to the cause, which was subsequently raffled off and more stamps were purchased with the proceeds so that the membership drive

established their volunteer organization and turned the club facilities and assets over to the sub-committee on parks and recreation. This ended the operation of the facilities as a community centre which had served the community under volunteer citizen management since January 1, 1947.

Tom Orm, who served as president of the East End Barons for its last seven consecutive years, identified the declining need for sports programs and reduced community involvement as a sign of changing community demographics and thus initiated the centre's closure.

The East Kildonan-Transcona sub-committee on parks and recreation subsequently adopted a proposal submitted by the parks and recreation branch that the East End Barons facilities be re-designated as the East End Cultural and Leisure Centre to provide for non-athletic programs, particularly those requiring large or non-portable specialized equipment.

The new Cultural and Leisure Centre during 1980, its first year of operation, served 1698 persons through its indoor program and an additional 2113 children visited the wading pool. As the community became more aware of these leisure facilities and programs the participation increased. In 1982, participation in indoor programs increased to 4628 with the wading pool serving 2348 children.

The East End Cultural and Leisure Centre now accommodates a wide range of leisure activities for people of all ages. Specialized equipment for pottery, ceramics, and woodworking have proven popular for both formal instruction programs and for scheduled informal drop-in activity.

During 1983, the Community Improvement Program funded an addition and renovation project for the East End Cultural and Leisure Centre building and grounds to increase its capacity to serve the community, and to add to the aesthetics of the surrounding community.

Funds in amount of \$115,000 were expended on the building and \$135,000 was utilized to beautify the grounds and add children's playground equipment.

An air of positive satisfaction permeated the conclusion of the opening ceremonies — rather like the time-favoured adage which reminds one that if you can't plant big trees, plant little ones and help them grow.

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